

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claim of the same number.

1. (Currently Amended) A screening and/or synthesis device for performing at least one basic operation comprising adding, releasing, transferring, converting or detecting, on samples contained in reaction vessels of a substance support, in particular a titer plate, having a bottom plate, comprising:

at least one receiving device for receiving the substance support,

wherein the receiving device comprises a leveling device that at least partially levels out the substance support before or while or before and while the basic operation is carried out, by subjecting the plate to a pressure force or attraction force, or said pressure force and said attraction force toward a planar area of support, whereby the leveling device is adjusted to the requirements of a workstation of the screening and/or synthesis device, so that said at least one basic operation can be carried out.

2. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the leveling device comprises a negative pressure device for pressing or attracting, or pressing and attracting the substance support onto the area of support.

3. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 2, wherein the negative pressure device comprises at least one vacuum channel connected to the area of support and connected to a negative pressure source.

4. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 3, wherein the vacuum channel is arranged in a planar support plate in such a manner that the support plate exhibits multiple suction grooves on a support side turned toward the substance support.

5. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 4, wherein the support side of the support plate forms the support surface.

6. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 4, wherein a vacuum plate is arranged between the substance support and the support side of the support plate, whereby a top side of the vacuum plate forms the support surface.

7. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 6, wherein the vacuum plate exhibits at least one porous layer for the homogeneous attraction of the substance support.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the leveling device comprises a pressure plate capable of being subjected to force, for pressing the substance support onto the support surface.

9. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 8, wherein the pressure plate is capable of being subjected to mechanical force from above.

10. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 8, wherein the pressure plate is capable of being subjected to electro-mechanical force.

11. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 8, wherein the pressure plate exhibits multiple pressure pins for pressing the substance support onto the support surface.

12. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 11, wherein the pressure pins are distributed on the pressure plate in such a way that they are inserted fully home on wall areas between two reaction vessels of the substance support.

13. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 8, wherein the pressure plate exhibits at least one recess in such a manner that the reaction vessels are freely accessible for carrying out at least one of the basic operations.

14. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 13, wherein the at least one recesses are designed as holes arranged on the pressure plate in the same modular size as the reaction vessels on the substance support.

15. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 4, wherein the support plate or vacuum plate or said support plate and said vacuum plate exhibits a large number of measuring channels for receiving or connecting or receiving and connecting detection elements, which are arranged in the same modular size as the reaction vessels on the substance support.

16. (Previously Presented) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the leveling device is equipped with at least one sensor unit.

17. (Currently Amended) A method comprising: performing in a screening and/or synthesis device at least one basic operation comprising adding, releasing, transferring, converting or detecting, on samples contained in reaction vessels of a substance support, in particular, of a titer plate, having a bottom plate,

wherein before or while, or before and while the basic operation is carried out the substance support is at least partially leveled out by subjecting the plate to a pressure force or attraction force, or pressure force and attraction, whereby the leveling device is adjusted to the requirements of a workstation of the screening and/or synthesis device, so that said at least one basic operation can be carried out.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the substance support is leveled out in a screening and/or synthesis device.

19. (Previously Presented) A use of the procedure according to Claim 17 and the screening and/or synthesis device in the search for pharmaceutical active agents, in combinational chemistry and/or biotechnology research and development.